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Heraclitus Ridens,

AT

A DIALOGUE between *JEST* and *EARNEST* Concerning the *TIMES.*

From Saturday December the 18*th.* to Tuesday the 21*th.* 1703.

Jest. WELL, a good Sturdy Forehead is of Excellent uſe in the Days of Tribulation. *Nob*'s the ſame Man to a Little ſtill, and carries off his Misfortunes with ſuch an Air of Aſſurance, that you would rather think him above the Cenſure of Parliaments, than fall'n under their Diſpleaſure.

Earn. Let every one take their own way, his Management is peculiar to himſelf; but if I miſtake not, he tells another ſort of Story in a Day or two; and all the Friends he has in the *Mint*, will not be of ſufficient Force to protect him. Here's a Book here in my Hand, call'd, *The Tryal, Examination, and Condemnation of* Rebellion Nob. You may have it at Mr. *Nutt*'s, that has ſtruck him into a Heap at once.

Jeſt. Why truly, in my Opinion, he look'd like one *All of a Heap* before the Pamphlet ſaw the light. But what Merry Rogue is this that has play'd him ſuch a Trick, before he has thought fit to give his Appearance before the Committee.

Earn. Some body or other that bears him a particular Kindneſs, I'll warrant you; take my word for it, he's no *Scotchman*, he has ſuch an Averſion to the Sin of *Rebellion.* This may be of great uſe to let the Perſons concern'd in his Profecution into the Knowledge of his ſeveral Crimes, and Point out the Particular Numbers of each *Obſervator*, that may render him Guilty of the wicked Practices he ſtands Accus'd of, and by this Means ſave a great deal of Trouble the Committee may be put to, in enquiring into his Papers.

Jeſt. I'll away with it to *Weſtminſter* this very Minute. Ten to one but he furniſhes me with another Theme, than the *late Horrible Storm*, which he recommends to me in his laſt, before many Days have gone over his Head, and his Elegy and laſt Dying Words may be Bawl'd about the Streets, in the room of a *Panegyrick*, unleſs he ſhews the Government a fair Pair of Heels, and rubs off to *Holland* once more, or joyns the Male-Contents in *Scotland.*

Earn. The Nature of his Crimes are ſuch, as to amount to little leſs than Treaſon, if the Rigour of the Law were made uſe of; For, That he has blown the Trumpet of Sedition, That he has excited Her Majeſty's Subjects in *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, to take up Arms againſt Her, under the Pretence of Aſſerting their Native Rights; That he has Robb'd the Crown of its juſt Prerogatives, is as apparent as that he has taken upon him to Dictate to Parliaments, and Preſcribe to the Council of His Royal Highneſs the Prince of *Denmark.*

Jeſt. And to Convince us that he deſigns nothing leſs than Rebellion, he furniſhes his *Countryman* with Two good *Proteſtant Muſquets, and Three Basket Hilted Swords, that were us'd at* Marſton-Moor, Edge-Hill, *and* Dunkirk, in favour of an Uſurper, to Vindicate the ſame Cauſe again, when occaſion ſhall offer. But what adds to the Pleaſantry of the Matter, is the Choice he has made of a Gunſmith to provide him a *Blunderbuſs*; *Tom Tyler!* Without doubt a Man of as Excellent Morals as himſelf. Had his Inſtrument of Death Monger been call'd *Wat*, and his Sword-Cuttler fallen under the Denomination of *Jack Cade*, never would Man have had Two Humble Servants, more to his Purpoſe He might have been as *Plauſible* and *Defenſible* as the little Mercurial Muſickſeller in St. *Paul's* Church-Yard deſir'd to be, and have *ſtood Buff* againſt all his Enemies.

Earn. Let the Party which he has been Adopted Secretary to, go on with their Shew, we are not to be frighted by their appearing ſo openly againſt the Church and Government Eſtabliſh'd. We have a Parliament that has bravely Reſolv'd to ſtand by them both, with their Lives and Fortunes, and made ſuch Proviſion for the Security of the Kingdom, by Voteing the *Reſumption* of thoſe Grants that Nouriſh'd the profeſs'd Enemies of it, that we have nothing to fear from the Heads of 'em for the future, who muſt Refund what has hitherto kept Life in the Party, and of conſequence deſtroy it.

Jeſt. That very Reſolution will bring into the Treaſury at leaſt Two hundred thouſand Pounds. I proteſt a very pretty Sum to ſtrengthen our ſelves and weaken our Enemies with; *Amen.* Say I, Grant Heaven, that ſuch a Bill as this may paſs. There is likewiſe a great probability, that t'other Irregularites which have notwithſtanding the Queen's expreſs Order to the Contrary, crept into the Adminiſtration, will be Redreſs'd, as Buying and Selling of Offices Eccleſiaſtical or Civil.

Earn. I ſhould Rejoyce at an Act of Parliament to this Effect; And have had a Query lying by me on that Head, which I take this Opportunity of Explaining to you; It runs thus:

Whether it be Lawful and Convenient to ſet Offices, either Judicial or Miniſterial, to Sale?

Earn. The buying and ſelling of Publick Offices, either Judicial or Miniſterial, giveth Occaſion, and farther conſtraineth thoſe Men to take Bribes, and to be Covetous (who according to the Counſel of *Jethro* given to *Moſes*)

ſes) ought to be fartheſt from it. For ſo long as the Places of Judgment ſhall be Vendible, and beſtow'd upon him that offereth moſt, we ſhall always ſee, That for Money, ſuch as are moſt Ignorant, worſt Livers, and Unworthieſt will be the Firſt and Chiefeſt. Now what Juſtice can be hop'd for of ſuch Men? For after they are once placed therein, the chiefeſt Reſpect is to reap Gain, Profit, and Advantage, according to that Value and Rate of Money which they laid out upon it. Did my Office coſt me ſo much? Then it muſt be thus much worth unto me; for if I had employ'd my Money elſewhere, I might have had thus much of Revenues, and Inheritance. The Emperour *Alexander*, and after him *Lewis* 12*th* of *France*, uſed this Speech long ſince by way of Prophecy, *That Buyers of Offices would ſell by Retale as dear as they could that which they bought in Groſs*. And for this Cauſe a wiſe Politician heretofore hath written, that they which ſet to Sale Eſtates, Offices and Benefices, ſell withal the moſt ſacred Thing in the World, which is Juſtice; They ſell Commonwealth, they ſell the Blood of the Subjects, they ſell the Laws: And taking away the Reward of Honour, of Virtue, of Knowledge, of Goodneſs, of Religion, they open a Gate to Theſts, to Bribes, to Covetouſneſs, to Juſtice, to Ignorance, to Impiety: In a word, to all kind of Vice and Filthineſs.

It was an Excellent Eulogy given by the Hiſtorian to *Lewis* the 9th of *France*, 'That the 'Realm being corrupted with the Injuſtice and 'Extortion of the former Reigns, by the Sale of 'Offices and Places of Truſt; This King *Lewis* 'did expreſly Prohibit thoſe Sales, ſupplied 'ſuch Places as were void, according to the 'Perſons, after due Examination, to draw good 'Men, and of Underſtanding to apply themſelves to Study, otherwiſe they ſhould be 'ſhrewdly tempted, rather to have Stored themſelves with Money, than Merit; with Gold, 'than Goodneſs.

The Learned *Murray* ſpeaking to *H.* 4. of *France*, in his Meditation upon the 101 Pſalm. *fol.* 135, ſaith thus, *The Prince's Eye and Face ſhould be upon the beſt Sort of Men, to ſet them in Offices, and beſtow Charges upon them; Thoſe that affect ſuch Places, he ſhould always ſuſpect them, their Perſons and Practices; for he that is earneſtly aiming at an Office, or Living, without doubt deſireth it for the Profit, and not for the Charge.*

The *Romans* had a Law, call'd *Lex* Julia *de Ambitu*, which enacted, That thoſe who did compaſs, and attain Honour and Magiſtracy by Money, ſhould be puniſh'd with great Pecuniary Mulcts, and alſo be made Infamous. *Godwin's Antiq. l.* 3. *ſect.* 4. *c.* 18. *p.* 341. So the Emperour *Theodoſius* and *Valentianus* made a Law, *That no Publick Employments ſhould be Conferr'd upon Perſons, either for Ambition, or Bribes, or Promiſes, or for any Price that ſhall be given for them, but meerly for that they are Men of Honourable and Virtuous Diſpoſition, and of a Good and approved Life.* Cod. 19. 27. 6. But why ſhould we travel ſo much abroad, ſeeing we have Laws of our own to ſhew the Unlawfulneſs of ſetting of Offices to Sale, namely 12 *R.* 2. c. 2. and 5 *Eliz.* 6. c. 16. The former enacts, *That none ſhall obtain Offices by Suit, or for Reward, but upon Deſert*; And the latter ordaineth *a Penalty for Buying and Selling of ſome Sort of Offices.*

Jeſt. In return to your Obligation, take the following Verſes, which, tho' written ſome time ſince, are applicable to the preſent Times.

OF all the Factions in the Town,
Mov'd by Scotch *Springs or* Flemiſh *wheels;*
None turns Religion upſide down,
Nor tears Pretences out at Heels.
Like Splaymouth with his Brace of Caps
Whoſe Conventicle might be Cram'd perhaps
By the Demenſions of his Chaps.
He whom the Siſters ſo adore,
Counting his Actions all Divine,
Who, when the Spirit hints, can roar,
And if Occaſion ſerves, can whine;
Nay he can Bellow, Bray or Bark,
Was ever ſike a Beuk-learn'd Clark,
That ſpeaks all Lingua's of the Ark.
To draw in Proſelytes like Bees,
With pleaſing Twang he tones his Proſe,
He gives his Handkerchief a Squeeze,
And draws John Calvin *by the Noſe.*
Motive on Motive he obtrudes
With Slip-Stocking Similitudes,
Eight uſes more, and ſo concludes.
When Monarchy began to Bleed,
And Treaſon had a fine new Name;
When Thames *was Balder daſh'd with* Tweed,
And Pulpits *did like Beacons flame,*
When Jeroboam's *Calves were Rear'd,*
And Laud *was neither Lov'd nor Fear'd,*
This Goſpel Comet firſt appear'd.
Soon his Unhallow'd Fingers ſtript
His Sovereign Liege of Power and Land;
And having Smote his Maſter, ſlipt
His Sword into his Fellow's hand;
But he that wears his Eyes may note
Oft times a Butcher binds a Goat,
And leaves his Boy to Cut her Throat.
Poor England *felt his Fury then,*
Outweigh'd Queen Mary's *many Grains.*
His very Preaching Slew more Men,
Than Bonner's *Faggots, Stakes and Chains.*
With Dog-ſtar Zeal, and Lungs like Boreas,
He Fought, and Taught, and what's Notorious,
Deſtroy'd his Lord to make him Glorious.
Ripe for Rebellion he begins
To Rally up the Saints in Swarms,
He bawls aloud Sirs leave your Sins,
But whiſpers Boys ſtand to your Arms;
Thus he grows inſolently Rude,
Thinking his Gods *can't be ſubdu'd*
Money, *I mean, and* Multitude.
No Magiſtrate he values more
Than Uſurers *a good Conſcience,*
Vowing he'll not Conform before
The Church admits of Nonſenſe;
He calls the Biſhop Gray Beard Goff,
And makes his Power as meer a Scoff
As Dagon *when his* Hands *were off.*
Hark how he Opens with full Cry,
Halloo, my Hearts, beware of *Rome*;
Cowards that are afraid to Die,
Thus make Domeſtick Broils at home;
How quietly Great ANNE *might Reign*
Would all theſe Hotſpurs Croſs the Main,
And Preach down Popery *in* Spain.
I would as ſoon turn back to Maſs,
Or *change my Phraſe to* Thee *and* Thou,
Let the Pope Ride me like an Aſs,
And his Prieſts Milk me like a Cow,
As buckle to Republick Laws,
The Bad Effects o'th' Good Old Cauſe,
That hath Dove's Plumes, *but* Vulture's Claws.

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